

REMARKS

The only issues outstanding in the Office Action mailed August 8, 2005, are the requirement for restriction, the objections to the claims, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C §112. Reconsideration of these issues, in view of the following discussion, is respectfully requested. The Examiner is thanked for indicating the allowability of the claims over cited art.

Requirement for Restriction

As discussed below, the present response places the elected claims in condition for allowance. Inasmuch as withdrawn process claims 10 - 13 are drawn to a process of using the allowable catalysts in group I, claims 1 - 9 and 14, it is submitted that the process claims should now be rejoined for examination in accordance with M.P.E.P. §821.04.

Objections to Claims

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 8 have been objected to as a result of various informalities. The Examiner's careful reading of the claims is appreciated, and the majority of the suggestions made at page 2 and 3 of the Office Action have been adopted.

The Applicants have a few specific comments:

- The Markush language describing M has been modified in order to make it clear that the original language recited mixtures of any of the disclosed elements, as the result of the use of the term "and/or."
- In lines 6 - 7 of claim 1, rather than using the term "selected from" as suggested in the Office Action, Applicants have simply recited that "A is an element from group VIII", in order to avoid any confusion from the use of what might be thought to be Markush language.
- Similar changes clarifying the Markush language (where and/or was specifying mixtures) have been made at line 12 of claim 1.
- In addition to removing the term "takes" at line 13 of the claim, as requested, the language has been streamlined for clarity.

Withdrawal of the objections to the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

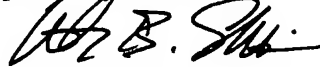
Rejections under 35 U.S.C §112

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C §112. A typographical error in the claim has been corrected, and is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

The claims of the application are submitted to be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner has any questions or comments, he or she is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: PET-2095

Date: November 8, 2005

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